

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 22-25 are added by the present response. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,061,056 to Menard et al. (herein "Menard").

It is initially noted that each of independent claims 1, 3, 17, and 19 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Independent claim 1 now clarifies forming a database by providing multimedia information into "plural partial information formed of a frame or frames". The other independent claims 3 and 17 are similarly amended. Claims 1, 3, and 17 are also amended to make other minor clarifications. Further, independent claim 19 is amended by the present response to no longer be written as an independent claim, but to now depend on claim 1, and to clarify features recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 3, and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

As noted above, each of independent claims 1, 3, and 17 is amended by the present response to recite the dividing multimedia information into plural partial information formed of a frame or frames. Such subject matter is noted in the present specification, as a non-limiting example, at page 22, line 22 et seq. In the claimed invention that partial information can be utilized in searching operations to enhance usability of the claimed image providing method and apparatus.

The claimed system and method set forth dividing multimedia information into plural partial information formed of a frame or frames, adding program feature data to the partial information, and searching for partial information based on matching between a user profile data and the program feature data. Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over Menard.

In addressing the above-noted claim features of dividing multimedia information into partial information, adding program feature data, and searching for the partial information, the outstanding Office Action cites Menard at col. 1, line 66, to col. 2, line 19, and col. 9, lines 1-20.¹ However, applicants respectfully submit that such disclosures in Menard do not even remotely address the claimed features. The disclosure at col. 1, line 66, to col. 2, line 19, broadly recites the claim in Menard and does not teach the above-noted claimed features. Further, at col. 9, lines 1-20, Menard discloses a closed caption such as shown in Figure 12 therein. Such a disclosure in Menard is completely irrelevant to the claimed invention in which different multimedia information is divided into plural partial information formed on a frame or frames.

Applicants also note the claimed features fundamentally differ from the device in Menard. More specifically, the claimed features are directed to a database search technique. In contrast, Menard is directed to a technique for selectively storing information. Menard simply does not teach or suggest the formation of the program database as claimed, and the further searching for partial information utilizing that formed program database. Menard also does not teach or suggest any addition of program feature data to the partial information.

In such ways, each of the independent claims 1, 3, and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom, clearly distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

Further, independent claims 3 and 17 are believed to recite even further limitations neither taught nor suggested by Menard.

Each of independent claims 3 and 17 further recites an analyze section configured to analyze the multimedia information "using at least one analysis method of moving image analysis, acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis". The outstanding Office Action.

¹ Office Action of September 8, 2003, page 5, first full paragraph.

references Menard at col. 3, lines 27-65, and col. 6, lines 4-14, as meeting such limitations.²

However, applicants note that disclosure in Menard does not disclose such subject matter, i.e. Menard does not disclose at least one analysis method of moving image analysis, acoustic/speed analysis, and text analysis.

Further, with respect to claim 17, Menard also does not teach or suggest that an information reception apparatus includes a search engine configured to search for predetermined program feature data from a database and select partial information from the multimedia information stored in the database in accordance with searched program feature data.

Further, claim 19, now written as a dependent claim, further distinguishes over the disclosure in Menard noted at col. 9, line 54, to col. 10, line 6. Such teachings in Menard merely teach a text display and synchronism with an input video and audio signal, and do not relate to an update of a user profile data based on a result of a search as now recited in claim 19.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 3, and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

The present response also sets forth new dependent claims 22-25 for examination. Those new claims further recite “wherein each plural partial information includes a representative images of a respective multimedia information”. That subject matter is supported by the original specification for example at page 22, line 22 et seq. Further, such features are believed to more clearly distinguish those dependent claims over the applied art. More specifically, Menard does not teach or suggest any structure in which the plural partial information includes representative images of a respective multimedia information. With this structure recited in new dependent claims 22-25, a user can view representative images of a

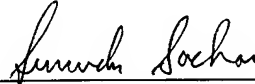
² Office Action of September 8, 2003, page 5, last full paragraph.

respective multimedia information for a search operation. Menard does not teach or suggest such a feature. Thus, new dependent claims 22-25 are believed to even further distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

I:\ATTY\SNS\0039\00397484\00397484-AM2.DOC